Health insurance

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL WORKERS UNION
(AFL - CIO)

1031 Franquette Avenue
San Jose, Calif.
April 4, 1958

Governor Goodwin J. Knight
State Capitol
Sacramento, Calif.

Dear Governor Knight:

In the publication entitled "Strangers in our Fields", a copy of which has been sent to your office, reference is made to certain irregularities in the administration of the non-occupational insurance program for Mexican contract farm workers.

Since the publication of that report in the summer of 1956 it appears that these irregularities have continued.

Specifically, during 1957 the San Joaquin Farm Production Association as the employer of over 30,000 Mexican Nationals, deducted a weekly premium for non-occupational insurance of $1.00.

The master policy issued by the Continental Casualty Company to the employer called for a premium of $3.61 per calendar month.

There is one case of record of a bracero who was charged a premium of $8.00 for two successive payroll periods of two weeks each.

We are also informed that the agent of the insurance brokers in El Centro has been acting in the capacity of dispatcher for the San Joaquin Farm Production Association out of the Federal Reception Center. Dispatching may have included clearance of "specials" - Nationals with certain priorities for employment. The Department of Labor has reported that serious irregularities have developed in connection with the hiring of "specials".

It is our view that these conditions call for an investigation by the State Commissioner of Insurance. I trust that you will agree with our view.

Sincerely yours,

Ernesto Galarza
Secretary